

An Essay

on

Typhoid Fever

Respectfully Submitted to the

Faculty

of the

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of

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Typhoid Fever.

This disease has been denominated by writers, by different names, viz; Entero-Mesenteric Fever, Continued Fever, Abdominal Typhus, Nervous Fever, Syphus-Mitior.

Typhoid Fever may be defined to be that form of febrile affection, which is attended with lesion of the glands of the Ileum, and characterized by rose-coloured spots on the abdomen, and Sudamina. This disease sometimes comes on abruptly with a chill, followed by the usual symptoms of fever; but, as it occurs in this country, it makes its attack in a very insidious manner, more so, than any other acute disease, and requires an exquisite tact, and most complete effer-

- vence to discover its existence from the first, and the most skilful Physician may mistake the disease until it has arrived at its more advanced period.

The patient complains at first of bodily and mental languor, and debility, no disposition to move about, a feeling of general fatigue, soreness, numbness and pain in the limbs, and back, loss of appetite, the tongue is slightly furred, the skin is dry but not remarkably hot, the pulse is moderately quickened. There may be some chilliness alternating with heat; and generally there is diarrhoea or constipation, more generally diarrhoea; this may be called the forming or incubative stage, and continues an unlimited length of time, from six to twelve days, when the patient

feels sick enough to go to bed, and the disease assumes the ordinary phenomena of fever; the pulse becomes accelerated, and in some cases is full and strong, and others frequent, small and compressible, being more frequent in females than males; the countenance shows marks of disease, being heavy, and expressing anxiety and depression; the sleep is generally disturbed, and the disturbance increases as the disease advances; bleeding at the nose generally occurs, and is considered by some a characteristic symptom. The urine is scanty and high coloured. The patient complains very much of head-ache; these symptoms continue for several days to increase, with new symptoms.

The patient no longer complains, but is indifferent about answering your questions, the countenance becomes sunken and has a Cadaveric appearance; there is stupor, and drowsiness, alternating with delirium; picking the bed clothes, the hearing which is impaired from the first, becomes more so, and the patient becomes quite deaf; he imagines he hears sounds and voices which do not exist; the eyes present a peculiar heavy languid appearance, watery and red from injection of the conjunctival vessels; there is great sensibility to light, the abdomen becomes enlarged and tympanitic; the bowels are sometimes constipated, but more generally there is diarrhoea; the patient

complains of pain in the right iliac fossa, and shudders upon pressing the hand upon it, the skin is generally dry and burning; sometimes the body is covered over with sweat; the tongue is dry and thick, sometimes cracked, and is protruded tremulously and with difficulty; sores upon the teeth, and gums, cough frequently sets in, either dry, or accompanied with expectoration; in some cases there is great oppression of the chest; the patient most always lays on the back, and slipping involuntarily down ^{it} _{in} the bed; Subsultus Tenditum, or spasmodic motion of the upper extremities; The pulse becomes quick and small, and is compressible, and varies from

go to 120 in a minute. The body emits a peculiar musty cadaverous odour, and characteristic of this affection.

The urine is scanty, high coloured, and generally deposits a sediment; rose coloured spots, about as large as a pins head, and slightly elevated above the surface of the skin, make there appearance on the chest and abdomen.

Sudamina are small transparent vesicles and generally found on the neck, and upper part of the trunk.

These symptoms continue to increase until the case either terminate favorably or unfavorably; if favorably the pulse becomes fuller, and stronger, and less frequent, the tongue becomes moist and gradually cleans off; the stupor and

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delirium subsides, the appetite returns
and Convalescence takes place.

If the case terminates unfavorably the
pulse becomes slower, and fluttering,
and scarcely perceptible; the extremities
become cold, sometimes the whole surface
of the body is covered with clammy
sweat, Hiccough sets in, and life
is quickly extinguished.

Anatomical Characters.

Most of the organs in the body show
some signs of inflammation after
death, but the organs most affected
and show the existence of the disease,
are the Glands of Peyer, and Brunner,
Mesentery glands and the mucus mem-
brane of the Ileum, between the affected
glands, Ulceration is found in its

various stages, and when the process is completed the whole patch constitute one ulcer. In some instance the floor of the ulcer is the muscular coat, in others it is the peritoneal coat, in consequence of the destruction of the muscular coat; sometimes the peritoneal coat is found perforated so as to form a communication with the cavity of the peritonaeum.

Perforation is frequently found, sometimes there is one, two, or three openings. The perforation is produced either by the progress of ulceration, or by mortification. The mucus membrane becomes reddened, enlarged, and softened, and sometimes exhibits traces of pus.

Diagnosis.

The diagnostic symptoms of the affection are, dark and dry, thickly coated tongue, protruded with difficulty, drowsiness, stupor, and extreme debility; rose coloured spots on the skin, Sudamina, Epistaxis, Spasmodic movements, or permanent contraction of the muscles of the different parts of the body, dark thick sordes on the teeth, diarrhoea or constipation. When more or less of these symptoms coexist in the same person, we cannot doubt but he is attack with Typhoid Fever.

Prognosis.

The prognosis under Homoeopathic treatment is favorable.

Treatment.

The first or ~~fore~~ ^{morning} stage of this disease calls for the following remedies. Aconite, Belladonna, Bryonia, Pulsatilla, Nux-vom. Mercures, Ipecacuanha, Veratrum, Rhus Toy.

When inflammatory symptoms show themselves at the commencement of the disease, Aconite is the best remedy should there be full and strong pulse, coated tongue, chills alternating with heat. If there should be great pain in the head, with flushed face and restlessness, Belladonna may be alternated with Aconite.

If gastric symptoms set in such as Nausea, vomiting, watery yellow or greenish evacuation, with ~~constipation~~

shivering, and slight heat, Ipecacuanha may be given, or Pulsatilla may be given at this stage of the disorder, when there is bitter taste, whitish tongue, loss of appetite, absence of thirst, more particularly if they occur in mild and sympathetic constitution.

Veratrum is indicated when the disease commences with vomiting, and watery stools, with coldness of the limbs, and cold sweat.

Mercuries is indicated when the evacuations are frequent, watery, mucus or sanguinous stools, with pain in the abdomen, and tenesmus, more frequent at night.

Nux vom is indicated when there is gastric or biliary symptoms, constipation

with frequent inclination to evacuate, spasms of the rectum, nervous excitability, sensation as if the limbs were bruised, painful and difficult emission of urine.

Bryonia is indicated where there is delirium, yellow coated tongue, Nausea, inclination to vomit, swelling of the abdomen with tenderness, urine dark and scanty, shooting pain in the chest, with oppression and cough with diarrhoea.

Rhus Trop is called for in all stages of the disease, but more particularly in the second stage of the disease, where the following symptoms show themselves; the pulse small and frequent, tongue dry and red, or dark coated, protruded tremulously, sores upon the teeth and lips, constipation or diarrhoea,ough

frequent, and dry, continual delirium or dull muttering, subsultus tendinum, epistaxis, sudamina.

The other remedies used in the second stage are, Arsenicum, Belladonna, Bryonia, Hyoscyamus, Phosphoric Acid, Ferum, Opium &c.

Arsenicum, Phos-Acid and Ferum are more particularly indicated when there is great prostration, with copious liquid stools, proceeded by extreme fullness, (Ferum) with great thirst, abdomen swelled and tympanitic, retention of urine, parched, cracked, dry and blackish tongue, pulse frequent intermittent, and scarcely perceptable.

The symptoms of Bryonia have been described in the first stage.

Belladonna is particularly indicated where there is great restlessness, the patient gets out of bed, violent delirium, redness of the face, tongue red and cracked, urine involuntary, Subsultus tenditum, drowsiness without sleep, pulse intermittent.

Opium is used with success in profound coma, snoring, deep sleep, slow pulse, muttering, dry tongue, involuntary stools.

Hoscyamus is used where there is great restlessness, and picking at the bed clothes. There are also other remedies used but these are the principal, and most important.